

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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*AT**AK*

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/433,761 11/04/99 RUSHING J UMB-LITES

MM91/1122

EXAMINER

KAJANE MCMANUS,  
PO BOX 344  
WONDER LAKE IL 60097

TON A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED:

11/22/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/439,801	UKE, ALAN K.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Anabel M Ton	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(d)

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 1999 .

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-7 and 10 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are objected to.

8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

15)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)      18)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_ .  
16)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)      19)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
17)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s)      20)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not understood what the applicant means by "For use on a structure including a radial array.....".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blanton (6,109,765).

3. Blanton discloses a diffuse lighting arrangement comprising a main power cord having a plug at one end thereof and incorporating a plurality of identical minimally spaced apart strings of spaced apart miniature lights extending from the power cord (fig 12), the string of lights are substantially identical in length (fig 12).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blanton.

6. Although Blanton does not disclose the light strings being connected in series or the light strings being electrically connected to the power supply cord in parallel, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement these methods of connection and power distribution since they are old and well known in the art as methods of connecting different aspects of electrical (in this case decorative lighting) arrangements in series and/or parallel. Circuit protection devices as a means of protecting the circuitry of lighting devices, specifically Christmas lights, is old and well known in the art for preventing short circuiting due to power surges or weather effects on the lighting devices. The examiner takes Official Notice of the equivalence of an anchor strap and the clip shown in figure 10 of Blanton for their use in clasping wire of decorative arrangements or any wire for decorative purposes and the selection of any of these known equivalents to clasping wiring or decorative arrangements would be well within the level of ordinary skill in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the "anchor" strap adjustable in length, since it has been held that the provision of

adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954). With regards to claim 10, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art cited does not teach the combination of the anchor strap having two elongate edges with a plurality of spaced apart restraints depending from one of the elongate edges, wherein a free end of each restraint incorporates structure thereon which engages a corresponding one of an equal plurality of cooperating engagement structures which are spaced apart along the anchor strap.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M Ton whose telephone number is (703) 305-1084. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (703) 305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final  
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or  
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-  
0956.

AMT  
November 20, 2000



Sandra O'Shea  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800